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In the claims:

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CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

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inserting the data streams to be transferred into data frames, each data frame having a same data volume and a same data transmission rate;

providing that the data frames each have six sub-frames;

arranging a first and a second stuffing check bit at a start of each of

25 the second to sixth sub-frames;

arranging a first and a second variable stuffing bit in the sixth sub-frame, the first and second variable stuffing bits respectively following the first and second stuffing check bits; and

providing that the data frames each have a data volume of 1360 bits.

10. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second data transmission unit as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of:

combining and inserting into the same data frames a plurality of data streams each having the same data transmission rate.

11. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second data transmission unit as claimed in Claim 9, the method further comprising the step of:

multiplexing a plurality of formed data frames to form a multiplex signal.

12. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second data transmission unit as claimed in Claim 11, the method further comprising the step of:

adding frame-detection and overhead information to the multiplex signal.

13. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second data transmission unit as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the data transmission rates of the data streams are approximately 2.666057 Gbps, 2.488320 Gbps, and 1.250 Gbps.

14. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second data transmission unit as claimed in Claim 13, the method further comprising the steps of:

- 5 transferring 225 data bits of the 2.666057 Gbps data signal as user data in the first to fifth sub-frames of a data frame; and
- transferring 223 data bits of the 2.666057 Gbps data signal as user data in the sixth sub-frame of the data frame.

10 15. A method for transferring data streams of different transmission rates between a first and a second transmission unit as claimed in Claim 13, the method further comprising the steps of:

- alternately transferring, in each of the first to fifth sub-frames of a data frame, 15 times 14 data bits of the 2.488320 Gbps data signal as user data
- 15 followed by a fixed stuffing bit;
- transferring 12 data bits of the 2.488320 Gbps data signal as user data followed by a fixed stuffing bit; and
- alternately transferring, in the sixth sub-frame of the data frame, 14 times 14 data bits of the 2.488320 Gbps data signal as user data followed by a fixed
- 20 stuffing bit.